

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
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HERSETH ORIGINAL CO-SPONSOR OF ASSURED FUNDING FOR VETERANS HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2005

Legislation Would Honor and Protect Veterans' Health Care Benefits by Instituting Mandatory Funding

February 3, 2005, Washington D.C. - U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth recently became an original co-sponsor of legislation in the House that would make funding mandatory for the programs, functions and activities of the Veterans Health Administration.

Herseth, who is a permanent member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, has made veterans issues a key priority of her legislative agenda. Herseth said, "A promise made should be a promise kept. For far too long, the federal government has been breaking its promises to our nation's veterans."

She continued, "The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a new generation of veterans, and thousands of these young men and women are coming home afflicted with physical and mental wounds. At a time in history when we are again asking for this tremendous service and sacrifice, the time is now to send a clear message with mandatory funding that we will take care of veterans when they return."

The bill, titled the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act of 2005, has the support of every major veterans' service organization, including the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, a group made up of nine key veterans' service organizations advocating reform.

Herseth also noted that the influx of patients due to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan is putting a heavy burden on VA hospitals. She believes it is our responsibility to ensure the veterans health care system receives the funding it needs to care for this new generation of veterans.

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